Authorities Act, 1987, persons belonging to weaker sections of the society such as, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women/Child, mentally ill and disabled persons, any person in custody and all other persons who are earning less than Rs. 25,000/- per annum, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme Court, and less than Rs. 50,000/- if the case is before the Supreme Court are entitled to receive free legal services.

(b) Number of poor people who have been provided free legal aid during the last three years *viz.* 1998, 1999 and 2000 is as under:

| Year | Number of Persons |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 178 |
| 1999 | 303 |
| 2000 | 232 |

The district-wise figures are not available as National Legal Services Authority is maintaining consolidated figures State-wise;

(c) No survey has been carried out at the instance of National Legal Services Authority;

(d) Does not arise.

**Issue of Photo Identity Cards in Himachal Pradesh**

1618. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of voters provided with photo identity cards in the State of Himachal Pradesh till the end of June, 2001, District-wise; and

(b) by when such identity cards will be issued to all voters and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the details thereof, District-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The total number of voters provided with voters' photo identity cards upto 30.6.2001 in Himachal Pradesh is 26,57,394 (70.42%), the district-wise break up of which is given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(b) According to the Election Commission of India, the scheme of issue of photo identity cards to electors is not a project but a programme and no time limit can be fixed for completion of such a programme. The registration of electors is a continuous process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filling nomination and completion of election process) as every new

elector in a constituency has also to be covered by the scheme. As per the current electoral roll with qualifying date as 1/1/2001, there are 11,16,030 electors who have not been issued voters' identity cards. Their district-wise break up is also given in the aforesaid Statement. On a national basis, it would cost approximately rupees 2 crores to generate and distribute these identity cards.

**Statement**

*The District-wise number of residual electors yet to be issued EPIC*

| | Name of the District | Total No. of voters provided with EPIC | Residual Electors to be provided with EPIC (rolls with qualifying date 1/1/2001 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kinnaur (ST) | 33428 | 16017 |
| 2. | Shimla | 327348 | 150298 |
| 3. | Solan | 187215 | 88558 |
| 4. | Sirmour | 185829 | 72505 |
| 5. | Bilaspur | 157578 | 65745 |
| 6. | Hamirpur | 183571 | 92057 |
| 7. | Una | 197670 | 96502 |
| 8. | Kangra | 604616 | 240649 |
| 9. | Chamba | 194467 | 71444 |
| 10. | Lauhal & Spiti (ST) | 14809 | 6498 |
| 11. | Kullu | 159526 | 65767 |
| 12. | Mandi | 411337 | 149990 |
| | TOTAL: | 26,57,394 | 11,16,030 |

**Corporatization of Ports**

1619. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to corporatize the ports of India;

(b) if so, the ports, which are to be corporatized this year;

(c) the advantages corporatized ports will have by way of finances and other commercial activities; and

(d) the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A decision has been taken